

# ***Iowa Outdoors***

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources**  
**[www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)**

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**April 15, 2008**

1. Camping Kick-off Weekend May 2, 3 and 4
2. Prairie Rescue Events Planned For April 18, 19, 20
3. State Preserves Board to Meet April 23 at Effigy Mounds
4. DNR to Host Public Meeting April 29 on Proposed Wildlife Rules

## **CAMPING KICK-OFF WEEKEND MAY 2, 3 AND 4**

DES MOINES - Reservable campsites at the more heavily used state parks are getting close to full for Camping Kick-off Weekend, May 2, 3 and 4.

Campers using Iowa state parks during these days will receive a gift package that includes a camping coupon good for one night of camping at an electrical site, a free issue of *Iowa Outdoors* magazine, recipes, camping tips and more.

“We are anticipating a good crowd for the kick-off weekend, weather permitting,” said Kevin Szcodronski, chief of the Iowa State Parks bureau. “After a long winter, we are hearing people are tired of being cooped up and want to get outside and go camping and fishing.”

The DNR is hosting different programs in state parks during the weekend including scavenger hunts, fish identification, fishing, wild edibles, snakes, campfire cooking, nature hike, wildlife identification, butterfly gardening and more. The list of programs is available at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) then click on State Parks, then on Events Calendar under the Recreational Opportunities header in the left hand column. Events are listed by Month.

Iowa has 53 state parks that allow camping. The camping coupon may be used at anytime after Camping Kickoff Weekend. Campers needing some of the add-on campsite amenities, such as full hookups or an equestrian site, may use the coupon but will need to pay the difference.

“This is a change from what we offered over the past few years,” Szcodronski said. “By giving a coupon for a free night stay at one of our state parks, campers can

come back for another visit at their convenience. Our campers are important to us and we want to show them we value their loyalty and want to continue to see them throughout the summer.”

Campers will have to pay the appropriate site fees to camp during Camping Kick-off Weekend. Campsite reservations may be made online at [www.reserveiaparks.com](http://www.reserveiaparks.com), or secured on a first come, first serve basis for a non-reservable site. For more information on state parks, visit the Iowa DNR website at [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov)

**For more information, contact Szczodronski at 515-281-8674.**

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## **PRAIRIE RESCUE EVENTS PLANNED FOR APRIL 18, 19, 20**

Volunteers of all ages will help “rescue” prairie at Brushy Creek on April 18, Buck Grove, Bear Creek, Breen, Union Sough, Neal Smith, Kuehn, Sertoma, and Waterman on April 19, and Yellow Banks on April 20.

Prairie rescue events are coordinated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) with support from the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, county conservation boards and private conservation groups.

For a complete listing of all Iowa prairie rescue sites, visit the prairie rescue website at [www.inhf.org/prairierescue2008.htm](http://www.inhf.org/prairierescue2008.htm) The events are also listed on the Iowa DNR Keepers of the Land events calendar at [www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/index.html](http://www.iowadnr.com/volunteer/index.html).

Prairie Rescue volunteers will clear invasive species such as brush and small trees from the sites. Experts will conduct controlled burns on some of the prairies. These efforts will allow adults and kids to experience the prairies Iowa’s earlier generations saw, while preserving that experience for future generations.

Today, only about 1/1,000th of Iowa’s prairie remains. These small prairie remnants, even those in public ownership, are still at risk from encroaching species and the lack of historic fire and grazing patterns.

**For more information, contact Whitney Davis of the Iowa DNR, at 515-281-6271, or [Whitney.Davis@dnr.iowa.gov](mailto:Whitney.Davis@dnr.iowa.gov)**

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## **STATE PRESERVES BOARD TO MEET APRIL 23 AT EFFIGY MOUNDS**

MARQUETTE – The State Preserves Advisory Board will meet at 8:30 a.m., April 23, in the Visitors Center at Effigy Mounds National Monument, three miles north of Marquette on Hwy. 76. The meeting is open to the public.

Preserve board members will meet at 1 p.m., April 22, at the Waukon Stoney Creek Inn, 407 Rossville Road, for a tour of Slinde Mounds, Hartley Fort and Fish Farm Mounds state preserves. The tour is open to the public.

Members of the State Preserves Advisory Board are Deborah Lewis, Carl Kurtz, Gail Brown, Scott Moats, Armando Rosales, Cynthia Peterson and Liz Christiansen, deputy director of the DNR

A more detailed agenda is available on the Iowa DNR's website [www.iowadnr.gov](http://www.iowadnr.gov) under State Parks / Preserves, then click on Preserves Advisory Board link.

The following is the meeting agenda.

- Approve Agenda
- Approve Minutes of January Meeting
- Preserve Managers Conference
- Proposed Glenwood State Preserve Update
- Proposed Bicycle Trail at Staff's Cave Preserve
- Vincent Bluff Preserve Nomination
- Seed Harvest Request
- Proposal Selections for Fiscal Year 2009
- Election of Chair
- Open Discussion

**For more information, contact Daryl Howell at 515-281-8524.**

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**Media Contact: Willie Suchy, Supervisor, Wildlife Research Section, Iowa DNR, 515-281-8660.**

## **DNR TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING APRIL 29 ON PROPOSED WILDLIFE RULES**

DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is hosting a public meeting to discuss a number of new proposed regulations including changes to

waterfowl seasons, trapping quotas and seasons, and the wildlife depredation program. The meeting will be conducted over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) on April 29, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

“This is an opportunity for our hunters and people who support wildlife to give us some feedback on these regulations,” said Dale Garner, chief of the DNR’s wildlife bureau. “We will go over the proposed regulations and seasons and our rationale behind each change, and take comments from anyone willing to speak, then, if there is any time remaining, we will open the discussion to other topics.”

The proposed changes include removing the 3-day extension to the shotgun deer season and return the late muzzleloader season close date to Jan. 10. The DNR is also proposing changes to the wildlife depredation program to reflect the recommendations from a process improvement event in January. Other topics include proposed waterfowl season and expansion of the bobcat season zone in western Iowa.

Any interested person may make written suggestions or comments on the proposed changes on or before April 29, 2008. Written comments may be sent to the Wildlife Bureau Chief, Department of Natural Resources, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0034; or faxed to (515) 281-6794.

The DNR will have staff members from the wildlife bureau at each site to answer questions, and to take any written comments.

#### **ICN Locations:**

Ames	Ames High School, 20 <sup>th</sup> and Ridgewood
Burlington	Burlington High School, 421 Terrace Dr.
Calmar	South Winneshiek High School, 203 W. South St., Room 17
Cedar Falls	Area Education Agency 267, 3712 Cedar Heights Dr.
Cedar Rapids	John F. Kennedy High School, 4545 Wenig Rd. NE, Room 116
Centerville	Centerville National Guard Armory, 22800 Dewey Road, Sign Posted on Hwy. 5
Creston	Green Valley Area Education Agency 14, 1405 N. Lincoln, Turner Room
Davenport	North High School, 626 W. 53 <sup>rd</sup> St., Room 576
Dubuque	Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, 1229 Mount Loretta, Room B111
Fort Dodge	Fort Dodge High School, 819 N 25 <sup>th</sup> St., Room 12
Iowa City	Iowa City National Guard Armory, 925 South Dubuque St.
Johnston	Heartland Area Education Agency 11, 6500 Corporate Dr.
Marshalltown	Iowa Valley Community College District 1, 3702 South Center St., Continuing Education Center, Room 806
Mason City	North Iowa Area Community College 1, 500 College Dr., Activity Center, Room 106
Ottumwa	Southern Prairie Area Education Agency 15 – 1, 2814 N Court St.
Red Oak	Southwestern Community College 1, 2300 North 4 <sup>th</sup> St., Red Oak Center, Room 116

Sioux City  
Spencer

Central Campus Individual Learning Center, 1121 Jackson St., Room 311  
Iowa Lakes Community College, 1900 N. Grand Ave., Spencer Attendance  
Center, Fiber Optic Room 118

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